

I thank my friend for bringing this issue to the floor tonight. It is so important.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentlelady for her remarks and comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. REICHERT), our great sheriff and co-chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus.

Mr. REICHERT. Thank you, Mr. REED, for inviting me to speak this evening on this important topic.

I don't come here tonight with statistics. I come here with 33 years of experience in law enforcement. I was a cop for a long time before I came to Congress. I have been to the homes. I have seen the faces of the mothers and the fathers. I have seen the faces of the victims of sexual assault. I have held them in my arms while they cried and fell to the floor in a puddle of tears. These are real people. These are our children.

When I was on patrol back in the early seventies, I had a case where I was driving around all night. It was 2 in the morning. I found this young man wandering the streets. I pulled up and asked him what was wrong. He was sobbing and crying and asking for help. It took him at least an hour, Madam Speaker—an hour—before he could really finally tell me what happened to him. He had been abducted and taken to a remote home and raped and assaulted, humiliated and beaten for 2 days.

Imagine being in that position. Imagine being a victim of such a horrendous crime.

My own family has been touched by this, as I know some folks may be listening and some speaking tonight may have mentioned that. One of my own family members was raped.

But I know this from a deeper experience. When I was a homicide detective for the King County Sheriff's Office in the early eighties, I was assigned a case called the Green River serial murder case, where 50-plus women were killed.

Now, how did those young girls and women get on the streets? They were abused. They were sexually assaulted at home. They were physically assaulted. They were emotionally assaulted, and they left home. They were raped at home. They were raped by their neighbors. They were raped by their family members, and they ended up on the street.

□ 1630

And whose arms did they fall into, Madam Speaker, but the arms of a pimp, again to be victimized and raped over and over and over, sometimes for money, sometimes not. Lives destroyed. Some survived physically but were mentally and emotionally drained. Their lives and spirit ripped from their hearts.

This is a crime that until you see, until you look into the eyes of the person who has been victimized in such a horrendous way, you never really truly

understand the pain and the suffering that they have been through.

If they survive, they have a long, long road of recovery. And we call these people survivors. We call them survivors. If they don't, like in the Green River case, they die; their lives are taken.

Madam Speaker, we cannot allow this to continue in this country. I know that every day, there is a cop on the street, there is a social worker out there that is dealing with this crime. We have got to stop this. We have got to save the lives of our children.

Thank you, Mr. REED for holding this hour tonight. Thank you for the opportunity to share some of my story.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman from Washington State, the sheriff, for the words and the experience and sharing tonight in our efforts to say "no more" to sexual assault.

Madam Speaker, I know we are coming to the end of the Special Order this evening. So I will just close with a few words.

Madam Speaker, I stand in this Chamber today joined by my niece, who is with us this evening. I can't tell you how impressed, how proud I am of that young lady who has now turned one of the most negative experiences, horrific experiences in her life and is doing something positive about it.

It is her voice that has moved me to stand with my colleagues, to work across the country, to work with organizations like NO MORE and Sexual Assault Awareness Month to say, I am going to do my part, Madam Speaker. I am going to do my part to make sure that we scream from the mountains, across this land, that sexual assault—be it man, woman, child, adult—we have heard the stories all night tonight. But in the great land of the United States of America, we are going to say "no more" because it tears lives apart.

Victims are not only victimized by the perpetrators who do these horrific acts, but they are revictimized over and over again. And it is time we, as a Nation, come together and say, you know what, we are going to stand with the victims. We are going to educate and make people aware of this issue so that we can empower people—our law enforcement agencies, our prosecutors, the people that do God's work and tending to the people when they need the services that rape victims and sexual assault and domestic violence victims need and turn to in their time of need.

So we are going to continue this battle. We are going to continue this fight. And I just have to applaud the efforts of the men and women across the country that are coming together to say in one voice, "no more."

All 300-plus million people in America need to come together to highlight this issue. And I can tell you, if we unite as a Nation, we can bring to an end sexual assault and domestic violence.

And to my niece, I just say, I will always have your back. I will always stand with you shoulder to shoulder. And to anyone who wants to say she deserved it or she wanted it or that she was drinking and it was the alcohol that caused it, "no more." She is not the person that is responsible for this. As I said on March 14, when I asked her what I should tell the American Nation on her behalf, say "no more" because there are no excuses.

I appreciate my colleagues, my friends and the folks from the other side of the aisle coming together tonight to talk about this, which is such an important issue that we need to talk about and to, for once and for all, say "no more."

I ask every American, have a conversation with your daughter, your spouse, your son, your mother, your father, your aunt, your uncle. Speak about this issue. Empower each of us, as individuals, to say, we are not going to accept this in our midst any longer. I am confident, Madam Speaker, if we do that, that we won't have to say in the last 60 minutes that we have joined here together, that 30 more of our fellow American citizens have just suffered from one of the most horrific crimes on the face of the Earth, and that is sexual assault.

It is time to say "no more," and I ask everyone to join us in that campaign.

I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1874, PRO-GROWTH BUDGETING ACT OF 2013; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1871, BASELINE REFORM ACT OF 2013; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1872, BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-400) on the resolution (H. Res. 539) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1874) to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of legislation, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1871) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1872) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROTECTING MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, there are currently many concerns regarding health insurance in our country, especially among our Nation's seniors. At this time of major transition in our Nation's health care industry, it is critical that seniors enrolled in traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage can keep the coverage on which they depend.

Unfortunately, proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage are putting these important benefits at risk. This is a very serious situation across the country, and it is of great concern to me, with Florida being home to over 4 million seniors. My district alone has over 160,000 seniors, with more than one-third of them choosing a Medicare Advantage plan whose coverage would be severely impacted by the proposed cuts released in the draft rule that CMS put out in February.

We are already seeing what last year's cuts to Medicare Advantage have meant: smaller networks of doctors, cuts to add-on benefits, and higher out-of-pocket limits. The additional proposed cuts to the program released in February have raised great concerns from my constituents about their coverage and about the potential of having to pay more and having fewer benefits. That is why we are here today, urging the administration to reverse course and keep rates flat for 2015.

At this point, I would like to yield to my good friend Ms. SINEMA from Arizona, who has been fighting tirelessly to protect the seniors in her area as well.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Congressman MURPHY, for hosting this Special Order so that we can stand up and speak out for seniors in our districts. We are here today because CMS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, has proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage.

Next week, CMS will publish its final rule. I urge CMS to not cut Medicare Advantage. These cuts will decrease choice, create uncertainty, and undermine access to care for our seniors.

I oppose these cuts. Like Mr. MURPHY and many of our colleagues participating in this Special Order, I have repeatedly called on the Federal Govern-

ment to reconsider its proposal and make no further cuts to Medicare Advantage.

Medicare Advantage is a popular and effective alternative to traditional fee-for-service Medicare, especially in Arizona, where statewide, 38 percent of Medicare-eligible beneficiaries choose a Medicare Advantage plan. In my district, nearly 43 percent of Medicare-eligible beneficiaries choose a Medicare Advantage plan.

Medicare Advantage plans consistently receive high customer satisfaction ratings and are helping to control cost, drive innovation, and improve health outcomes for beneficiaries. I keep saying "beneficiaries." But what I should say is, our parents, our grandparents, and our loved ones. These plans provide affordable, high-quality care for our loved ones.

Bonnie Grant, a proud Arizonan in my district, is in her sixties and lives in Phoenix. Through her Medicare Advantage plan, she has access to a transportation system called Van Go. Bonnie uses the service to go shopping and to go other places "instead of being stuck at home." She said that it helps because "instead of being holed up in your home," she can be engaged in the community and enjoy her life. The Van Go benefit is the type of creative service offered by Medicare Advantage plans that improves the well-being of enrollees.

Joseph Ford, another constituent, lives in suburban Phoenix. He was disabled in a car accident. The hands-on managed care he receives through his Medicare Advantage plan, including in-home visits, allows Mr. Ford to stay in his home and live a fuller life. Keeping individuals like Mr. Ford in his home instead of in institutional care facilities is better for the beneficiary and presents a significant cost savings to the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

I am concerned that the proposed payment reductions for 2015 will undermine the choices made by my fellow Arizonans, by Ms. Grant, by Mr. Ford, and by others in my congressional district by causing our loved ones to lose needed services and to experience increases in premiums. These cuts could also have the unintended and costly consequence of putting our seniors at risk of being placed in institutions, rather than staying in their homes.

Instead of cutting funding for these popular plans, we should work together to find reasonable solutions that drive down cost, increase choice, address waste, fraud, and abuse, spur innovation, and ultimately improve the quality of life provided to our seniors.

Again, I urge CMS to maintain payment levels for Medicare Advantage so that our loved ones do not experience increased out-of-pocket costs, negative disruptions, or confusion in 2015.

Thank you, Congressman MURPHY, for working with me on this important issue and for hosting this Special Order today.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I thank the gentlelady from Arizona for her com-

ments and for reminding us that these aren't simply numbers on a ledger, that all of these beneficiaries are folks we know. These are our parents. These are our grandparents. They are more than just numbers.

And like Ms. SINEMA, I am constantly hearing from residents in my district about the negative impact these cuts would have on the well-being of their spouses, their parents, or personally, including Cheryl from Palm Beach Gardens, in my district.

After doing everything right to plan for her retirement, like many seniors do, Cheryl and her husband saw their savings cut in half during difficult economic times. Now they are seeing their health care options limited and their out-of-pocket costs going up. These are changes they simply cannot afford.

I agree with Cheryl that it is unfair to shift the burden onto those on fixed incomes, those who have little resources to make up the difference. Seniors cannot afford further cuts and the negative consequences if these misguided proposals move forward.

At this point, I would like to take a moment to yield to the general, Mr. ENYART from Illinois, and thank him for his leadership in fighting for seniors on behalf of Illinois and the rest of our country.

Mr. ENYART. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to show support for the 50 million Americans enrolled in Medicare. Medicare is vital not only to my district, like Mr. MURPHY's district in Florida, but our entire Nation, which is why my fellow colleagues and I should support its promise to all our citizens who have earned it, who have paid for it through their taxes, and who now rely on it for a stable health care system and for their medical care.

Medicare has a long and valued history since its inception in 1965. Social Security recipients have consistently benefited from the opportunity to access quality, affordable health care, a right now guaranteed to those who worked hard for that privilege.

There are 122,380 constituents from the 12th District of Illinois who participate in the Medicare program. That is one out of every seven citizens in my district.

□ 1645

Many of these constituents are disabled, and almost all are on a fixed or limited income. Medicare gives these citizens the opportunity to receive essential medical care and to take part in preventive care programs designed to maintain good health, which lowers the cost of health care—lowers the cost of health care.

Of those 122,000 southern Illinoisans, over 28,000 also participate in Medicare Advantage. That is one in four of those Medicare participants taking part in a program specifically designed for those seniors who have high rates of chronic disease. Medicare Advantage focuses on